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PM: No extra motion will be debated

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night dismissed as baseless allegations that the Johor Umno will table a motion rejecting the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English and the 10 per cent quota allocation for non-Bumiputera students at Mara Junior Science Colleges.

"I received reports from Ghani (Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ghani Othman), Hisham (Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein) and Muhyiddin (vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin) tonight refuting claims that there was such a motion. There were discussions and suggestions but no motion was passed.

"We did not receive additional motions from any division," said the Umno president.

Speaking to the media after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at Menara Dato' Onn in Kuala Lumpur, the Prime Minister reiterated that only three motions, as agreed upon earlier, would be tabled for debate.

The motions are on education, the presidential address as well as on religion and social issues.

Dr Mahathir said that the Youth and Wanita wings had also expressed their unanimous support to all government policies and Tan Sri Musa Muhammad, in his capacity as Education minister, to execute all government decisions.

The supreme council, which met for about 90 minutes, also heard a pre-assembly briefing on the rules and regulations for the sitting from Umno permanent chairman Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah.

On reports about a signature campaign, allegedly initiated by certain quarters from Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, to oppose the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English, Dr Mahathir said there was no truth to such reports.

"(Datuk Abdul) Rahim Bakar (DBP chairman) said there was no such thing. This is a rumour started by someone out to sensationalise the issue," he added.

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